

REMARKS

Applicants request that the Examiner enter the amendment prior to examining the application. Claims 1-22, 24-30, 35, 41-44, 46, 49-62, 65, and 68-129 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 130-133 have been added to more clearly claim an aspect of the invention and do not constitute new matter. Claims 23, 31-34, 36-40, 45, 47-48, 63-64, and 66-67 have been amended. Previously objected to claims 30-33, 35-40, and 46-48 were indicated as allowable by the Examiner in the Final Office Action dated April 23, 2004 if rewritten to include all limitations of the base claims from which they depend. Claims 23, 31-34, 36-40, 45, 47-48 have been amended to obviate the Examiner's objections. In addition, the Examiner stated in the Advisory Action dated August 6, 2004 that the rejection of claims 64-65 would be removed if Applicants amended the claims to recite only the preferred positioning of the gas conduits with respect to the longitudinal axis of the expanding channel. Claims 63-64 and 66-67 have been amended to more clearly recite this preferred positioning. Applicants believe the claims stand in proper condition for allowance and withdrawal of the objections and rejections regarding these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith M. Tackett
Registration No. 32,008
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicants